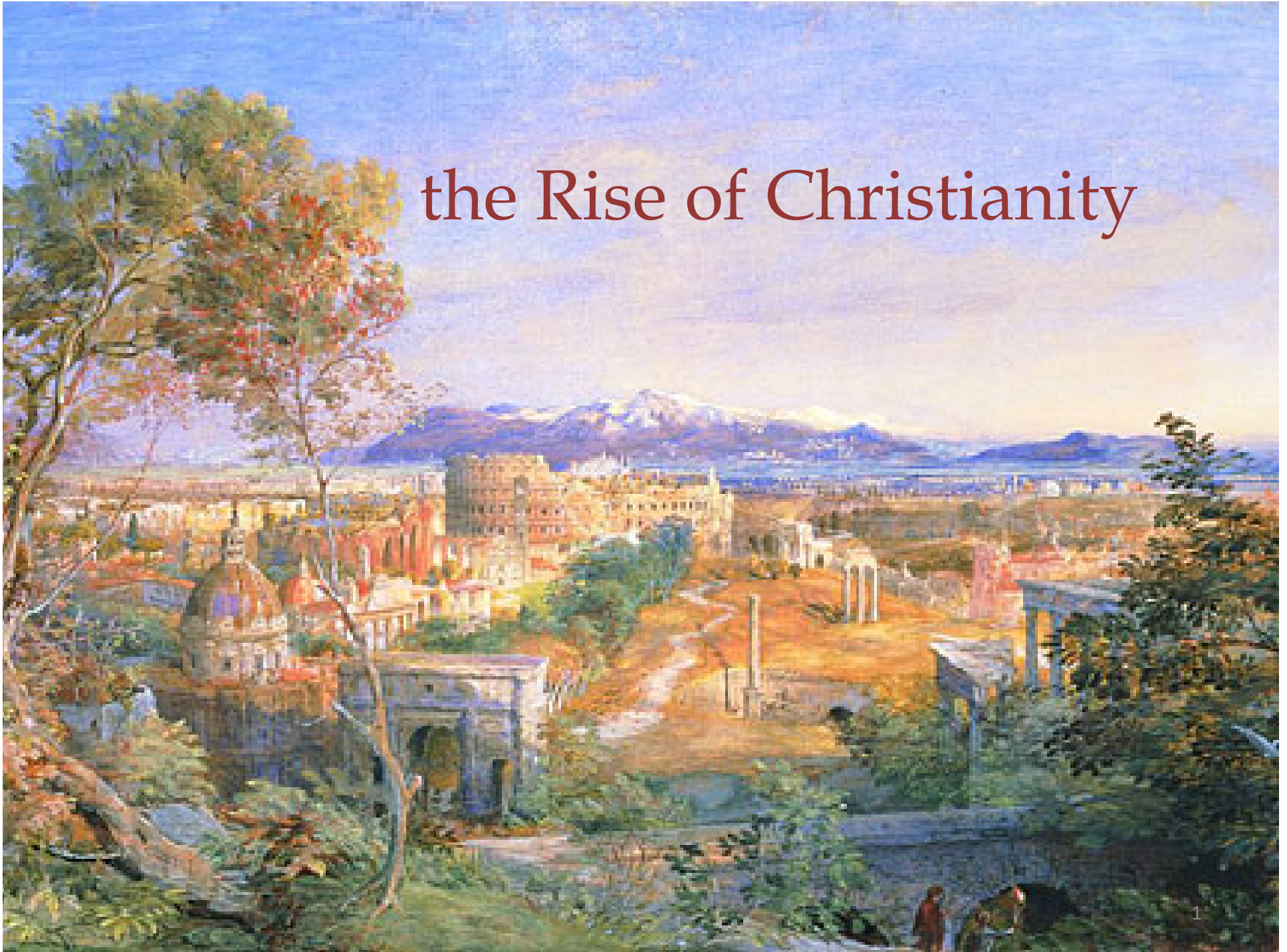


the Rise of Christianity



Christianity

-Early on in Pax Romana, a new religion, Christianity emerged in a distant corner of the Empire

By 63 B.C., Romans had conquered Judea a province in the empire where most Jewish people lived.

- Romans allowed Jewish people to worship their one god

- Many Jews reluctantly lived under Roman rule, however, some wanted a revolt against Rome and believed a messiah would come to lead their people to freedom



Jesus

- Born in 4 B.C. in [Bethlehem](#) a city in Judea
- worshipped God and followed Jewish law
- at 30 began preaching to villagers, used [parables](#)-short stories with simple moral lessons to communicate his ideas
- Recruited 12 followers to help him spread his ideas, called [apostles](#) or [disciples](#) in Jerusalem
- [Roman](#) authorities felt Jesus would lead the Jews in a revolt against their rule

Death of Jesus

-According to the gospels, Jesus was betrayed by one of his disciples, arrested by the Romans, and killed by crucifixion-a person was bound to a cross and left to die

-Rumors then spread that Jesus had not died but had risen from death and commanded his disciples to spread his teachings
-After the disciples reported he ascended into heaven



Christianity Spreads

- Followers called Christians
- Disciples preach the messages of Christianity throughout the Roman world
- Peter the leader or Pope established Christianity in Rome itself
- Paul, a disciple, wrote many letters or Epistles to Christians in distant cities telling about Christianity

He spread Christianity throughout the Mediterranean



Christians Oppressed

- Romans were not tolerant towards Christians because:
 - they refused to honor the emperor with sacrifices
 - they refused to worship Roman gods to protect the state
- Christians were used as scapegoats, blamed for social and economic problems
- Many Christians became martyrs- or people who suffer or die for their beliefs
- However, Christianity continued to spread due to the fact that all people were welcome

Early Christian Church

-Emperor Constantine issued the Edict or order of Milan in A.D. 313.

-The Edict granted freedom of worship to all citizens of the Roman empire



-By the end of the century, Christianity the official religion of the Roman empire

Structure of the Church

The Christian Clergy

Pope/Patriarch

Bishop

Bishop

Bishop

Diocese

Priest

+

Community

Diocese

Priest

+

Community

Diocese

Priest

+

Community

This structure continued through the middle ages to today

Facts about Christianity

- Holy Book is the Bible
 - Old Testament – stories of the Hebrews
 - New Testament – Stories of Christ
- Many sects or groups of Christians
 - All believe Christ is the messiah
 - Some started by difference in ideas
 - » Lutheran – started by Martin Luther
 - » Church of England – started by Henry VIII